

STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK
DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

• DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

February 24, 1982

Dr. Vincent Lisanti
Council for Tobacco Research
110 East 59 Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Dr. Lisanti,

As mentioned in our telephone conversation, the New York Academy of Sciences is arranging a conference on "The Chemistry and Biology of Alpha-2-Macroglobulin." I will be the chairperson for the conference, and would, therefore like to ask for financial support for this meeting, on behalf of the Academy. I think the subject area is of great significance in basic research at this time, and may be of specific importance in areas of interest to the Council. Although the central issue of the conference is a particular protein, recent results in this field have produced new ideas and strategies in basic protein chemistry and cell biology. In particular, a new functional group, an internal thiol ester, has been discovered. The role of this protein functional site in biology may be quite general for the reaction between macromolecules or of macromolecules with cells. Alpha-2-macroglobulin, itself is an inhibitor of proteases and it is in the area of control of macrophage and leukocyte elastase, and its role in pulmonary emphysema, that one important health application, is being developed. Advances in this field have been very rapid and, in fact, there has been very little chance for communication between various research groups on a personal basis -- there has been no recent conference on this subject -- and there has not even been any published reviews encompassing the major new information. I feel this will be a uniquely productive conference from the standpoint of consolidating new ideas and pointing the way to new research in basic chemistry and bio-medical science. I have included a formal description of the conference, and an agenda with details of the conference plan. As indicated, most of the speakers have agreed to appear as of this writing. Speakers will be included from the areas of basic biochemistry, structure and function of alpha-2-macroglobulin, chemistry of complement proteins (which have functional similarities to alpha-2-M), the medical and biological implications, and the area of cell biology in which alpha-2-M uptake has been a probe for receptor-mediated endocytosis.

I have also included a breakdown of the budget for the conference. The funds required, in addition to that supplied by the Academy, are \$28,729. Grant applications have also been submitted, or will be submitted to NIH, NSF and defense department agencies. Duplicating funds would, of course, not been accepted.

The actual applicant organization for the conference is the New York Academy of Sciences. The person to contact at the Academy is:

Mrs. Ellen Marks
Conference Director of the
New York Academy of Sciences
2 East 63rd Street
New York, NY 10021

(212) 838-0230

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if I can provide any more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Feinman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard D. Feinman
Associate Professor of Biochemistry

RDF:ml